

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 03359 090236Z

64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 AID-20

INT-08 NIC-01 RSR-01 /122 W
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O 090100Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2173

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 3359

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, NU

SUBJECT: STRIKE ACTIVITIES: METAL WORKERS GO OUT; TEXTILE
WORKERS STILL OUT

REF: MANAGUA 3311

1. THE MORNING OF AUGUST 8 SOME 600 WORKERS AT METASA, NICA-
RAGUA'S LARGEST METAL WORKING PLANT (A U.S. STEEL SUBSIDIARY
IN WHICH THE SOMOZA FAMILY HAS A MINORITY INTEREST) STAYED AWAY
FROM THEIR JOBS. THE WORKERS ARE REPORTEDLY OUT BECAUSE OF
ALLEGED GRIEVANCES OVER SETTLEMENT PAYMENTS WHICH THE COMPANY
RECENTLY MADE FOR SATURDAY WORK IN 1972. THE UNION PURPORTEDLY
REPRESENTING THE WORKERS WAS FORMERLY AFFILIATED WITH FREE AND
DEMOCRATIC LABOR CONFEDERATION (CUS) BUT IS CURRENTLY UNDER THE
INFLUENCE OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LABOR ORGANIZATION (CTN),
THE COMMUNIST CGT AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. IT HAS ISSUED A DECLA-
ARATION DENOUNCING THE GON, ORIT, AND NORTH AMERICAN IMPERIALISM
EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH THE FABRITEX STRIKERS AND CALLING FOR
A 100 PERSENT SALARY INCREASE AND A NEW CONTRACT. THE METASA
WORKERS STAGED A ONE DAY SYMPATHY WALKOUT WITH THE CONSTRUCTION
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PAGE 02 MANAGU 03359 090236Z

WORKERS' FIRST STRIKE DURING APRIL OF THIS YEAR.

2. METASA WILL REPORTEDLY REQUEST THE COURTS TO WITHDRAW THE UNION'S LEGAL STATUS ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT IS VIOLATING ITS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CONTRACT WITH THE COMPANY, WHICH IS PROHIBITED BY THE LABOR CODE. THE LABOR MINISTER HAS DECLARED THE STRIKE ILLEGAL AND APPROVED THE COMPANY'S LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE UNION.

3. THE 600 WORKERS AT THE FABRITEX TEXTILE PLANT ARE STILL OUT. THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE UNION AND MANAGEMENT, DESPITE RUMORS THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE LAWYERS MIGHT MEET. THE UNIONS' DEMANDS CONTINUE TO BE ILL DEFINED, THOUGH THEY DO INCLUDE A WAGE INCREASE. THE FABRITEX MANAGER TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER AUGUST 8 THAT HE WAS AT A LOSS AS TO HOW TO PROCEED. THE GON HAS TAKEN NO ACTION SINCE THE NATIONL GUARD PEASEFULLY REMOVED WORKERS FROM THE PLANT JULY 31.
SHELTON

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